

From: Tim Downs (tdowns@secucc.org)

To: michaelstroud@bellsouth.net;

Date: Mon, June 3, 2013 12:20:24 PM

Cc:

Subject: Register now for the 2013 Annual Meeting and news from around the Conference

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add tdowns@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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FEATURE FOCUS



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Southeast Conference is coming up next week!

We have several documents and reports available on the Conference website. You are encouraged to bring these documents to the annual meeting either by putting them on a laptop or tablet, or by printing them out.

[Click here for a link to the annual meeting documents posted on the SEC website.](#)

[Click here for detailed bios of the speakers and worship leaders for the Annual Meeting.](#)

Online registration will be available on the SECUCC website until Wednesday, June 5th.

[Click here to register now!](#)

Youth Gathering and "Lock-in" during Annual Meeting



We're excited to announce that this year we're adding a youth gathering to our Annual Meeting! Youth from rising 6th graders to graduating high schoolers are encouraged to attend. The sleepover gathering will feature relevant youth workshops, a chance to meet and connect in a workshop with Rev. Geoffrey Black, and contemporary/emergent worship featuring music with the Praxis band. [Youth can register for the event by going to the online registration and selecting the "lockin" option.](#) Cost for youth attending will be \$40 and will include all meals and activities.



Tap Banquet and Commencement

The final TAP Banquet will take place on Thursday evening, June 13th at 6 pm. Following the banquet will be a service of commencement and worship at 7:30pm. Rev. Kathy Clark will be guest speaking as we put a capstone on this vibrant ministry as it transitions into the PATHWAYS program. [Click here to make reservations for the Tap Banquet and Commencement online!](#)





We are saddened to share the news of the death of Roger Knight on May 22nd. Roger served as conference minister of the Southeast Conference from the fall of 1988 to the spring of 1995. He is survived by his wife Beth, and four children, Steven, Geoffrey, Eric, and Leanne. Roger and Beth have been residents of Uplands Village, Pleasant Hill, TN, since 2009. They have been very active in the life of Uplands village. Arrangements for a memorial service have not been made. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Beth Knight, PO Box 426 Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

Roger's ministry in the Southeast Conference was distinguished by a number of compliments. With the assistance of the United Church Board for Homelands Ministries, Roger brought administrative order to the Conference and restructured the staff to be deployed by portfolio rather than geographically. He led the first capital campaign in the history of the Conference, Visions '91, in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Conference. He led the conference in developing Evangelism Institutes, and brought UCC concerns for racial justice, women's rights, and progressive values more fully into the life of the Southeast Conference. During Roger's ministry the Conference moved its offices from the basement of Central Congregational UCC, into Mid-Town where the offices continue to be located today. Conference Minister Tim Downs said "Roger Knight set in place the foundation upon which the renewal of the Southeast Conference has been built. Without his vision and courage, the ministries that have taken root in the last twenty years would not have been possible. This Conference owes Roger Knight a deep debt of thanks." Following his ministry in the Southeast Conference Roger Knight went on to become pastor of Euclid Avenue Congregational UCC in Cleveland OH, from which he and Beth retired to Pleasant Hill.

Born in 1933, Roger Knight was ordained in the Eau Claire Association of the Wisconsin Conference in



On May 19th **Covenant Community Church of Center Point, Alabama**, celebrated its affiliation with the United Church of Christ in a Service of Reception, led by Conference Minister Tim Downs. The congregation of 250 members is led by Rev. JR Finney, and has been in a process of discernment with the UCC for over six years. Rev. Finney is seeking standing in the UCC. The church has had a dynamic ministry reaching out to predominately LGBTQ folk and their families. Diverse racially, in age, and in orientation, the church brings great gifts to the UCC. Their choir will be leading our music at the Annual Meeting of the Conference June 14-15.

On May 26th **Restoration Inclusive Ministries (RIM), in Decatur, GA**, joined the United Church of Christ in a Service of Reception led by Conference Minister Tim Downs. RIM is a member of The Fellowship, a coalition of ONA African-American churches many of which are UCC, led by Bishop Yvette Flunder of City of Refuge UCC in San Francisco.



The pastor and founder of RIM is Pastor Sonya Williams. She will be seeking a license for ministry in the UCC.

Construction at Holy Trinity



Construction continues at Holy Trinity Community Church in Nashville. The steel framing for the sanctuary has been erected and the roof is now on! In this picture you can see the building taking shape. Holy Trinity plans to have their opening worship, home coming, and 17th anniversary celebration this October.

Generosity Corner

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1959. He served as a new church start pastor in Wisconsin, then continued ministry in various settings of the UCC, regionally and nationally for 25 years, before coming to the Southeast Conference.

CELEBRATION

Celebrations around the Conference



Samantha Clark, member of Kirkwood United Church of Christ, Atlanta, was ordained and installed in a service on May 19th at Kirkwood UCC. Her installation into a chaplaincy with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta was celebrated with a four way covenant engaging Kirkwood UCC, Children's Healthcare, the Southeast Conference and Samantha. Dr. Chrisanne Mayer, Moderator of the KUCC represented the church, and Rev. Kenneth Hammond Children's Healthcare, and Rev. Henrietta Andrews, the Southeast Conference. Other participants in the service were Rev. Susannah Davis, pastor of Kirkwood, and Conference Minister Tim Downs.



On June 2, 5:30P Leah Lyman Waldron and Kirk Lyman-Barner, were ordained at Praxis UCC. Leah was ordained as co-pastor of Praxis UCC to serve alongside her husband Chris Lyman-Waldron, and Kirk was ordained to serve as pastor of a new church start - Praxis UCC, in Americus, GA. Praxis UCC worships at Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta. Conference Minister Tim Downs officiated over the ordination along with many clergy representatives from around the conference including Rev. Kim Buchanan who delivered the charge to Leah during the service.



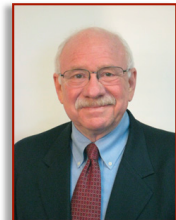
Capital Campaign UPDATE: A new pledge to the Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives Campaign has now been received. Thanks goes to Holy Trinity Community Church UCC in Nashville, Tenn. for their \$25,000 pledge. The Conference is grateful for their valued support in many, many ways. This brings our new Campaign Total to \$646,700.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: Send in those OCWM Pledges for 2013. [Click here for the pledge form.](#) Thanks to all who have already sent them in to Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator. At this year's Annual Meeting we will be recognizing special giving levels of Covenant Keepers and Strive to Tithe churches. Make sure your church gets recognized.

A Word from TIM DOWNS

Dear Friends,

This will be my last "Word from Tim" to you. As I enter my final weeks as your conference minister I am finding that my gratitude for our seventeen years together is reflected well in the words of the Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi; "I thank God every time I remember you, constantly sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now". You have been a remarkable people with whom to journey, and partners in ministry in ways for which I will always remember you. I will have an opportunity to say my farewells and final words to you at our Annual Meeting and I sincerely hope that I will have a chance to speak with each of you over the course of the weekend.



As we look ahead to the Annual Meeting, I hope you will be able to join us for a grand celebration of the ministries we have shared. On Thursday evening we will hold the last TAP Convocation and Commencement. This will be a time of celebrating again not only the life and ministries of Dick Sales the first director of TAP, but the ways in which Dick's successor, Kathy Clark, built upon his legacy and extended it. We will also

On June 9th at 3:00P, there will be a service of installation for Rev. Rick Diekmann, recently called as pastor of Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville. Rev. Diekmann last served in Port Saint Lucie, in the Florida Conference. All clergy and members of the Southeast Conference are invited to the service.

Retired Clergy Retreat

Calling all retired clergy and spouses/significant others. Save the date Sep 30-Oct 2, 2013. 2 nights, 5 meals at Blowing Rock Conference Center in NC. (\$166 per couple, \$108 single).

Retired Clergy of the Southern Conference UCC gather annually for fellowship, program, worship and sightseeing. This year the group (of about 40) is extending a welcoming invitation to retired clergy and spouses/significant others in the Southeast Conference UCC to join them.

Make your reservations before Sept 15 by emailing reservations@BRCCenter.org or calling (828) 295-7813.

2013 Women's Southern Regional Conference

Save the date for the next UCC Southeastern Women's Event! Florida Women are hosting the event in 2013. (2011 was hosted by Southern Women at Blowing Rock NC)

Keynote Speaker: **Sandra Gourdet, Area Executive, Africa, Global Ministries** (United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ)

Worship Leader: **Rev. Dr. Della Fahnestock, UCC Pastor and Executive Director for Mercy Orphanage, Kenya.**

Reading Connection workshop book is: **An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor.**

Go to www.uccwomen.org to register online
Printable agenda and registration forms at www.uccwomen.org

[To download fliers for these events click here.](#)

be lifting up the work of Sarah Kim and Laura Arnold as the staff of PATHWAYS, the program that picks up where TAP left off.

On Friday June 14th, during the day there will be gathering with Geoffrey Black, the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, for clergy and also for members in discernment, among other opportunities. That evening beginning at 5:00, there will be a dinner and a time to celebrate our time together as conference and conference minister, followed by a worship service. Our preacher will be Joyce Holliday, former associate conference minister and director of the Rekindle the Gift project of the Conference. Following worship there will be a time of reception for people to greet Carol and me. On the Saturday the 15th, we will have workshops, a keynote with Geoffrey Black, our business meeting, and more, ending with a closing worship and service of farewell for me.

A number of you have asked about my future plans. Carol and I have sold our home, and are moving to the Kirkwood neighborhood in Atlanta at the beginning of June. My summer will involve settling in and family commitments. In the fall I may explore continuing involvement in teaching online, however those plans are not fully formed. Above all I look forward to having time to attend to those things and relationships to which I have not been able to be fully present.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

Peace,

Tim Downs



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Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ



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